

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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On September 24, Deputy United States Trade Representative Susan Esserman and MITI Vice Minister Hisamitsu Arai met to launch a dialogue on steel trade issues between the United States and Japan. Reprinted below is the joint U.S.-Japan press statement which sets forth the objectives of these talks.

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September 24, 1999

**Joint Press Release by the Government of the United States and the Government of Japan  
on the U.S.-Japan Steel Dialogue**

1. Today the Government of the United States and the Government of Japan have decided to launch a "U.S.-Japan Steel Dialogue." The purpose of the Dialogue is to review conditions of steel industries in the two countries with a view to promoting market-based trade in a competitive environment and to exchange views on possible approaches to global overcapacity through multilateral fora. The Dialogue will be conducted in a manner consistent with international trade rules and without prejudgments concerning trade practices.
2. The Dialogue will be conducted at the vice minister level, and at the director level. The vice minister level dialogue will be held periodically, as necessary. The director level dialogue will be held twice a year and more frequently, as necessary, alternately in Japan and the U.S., unless otherwise decided; with the results of these discussions to be reported to the vice minister-level dialogue.
3. In principle, the agenda of the Dialogue will be as follows:
  - (1) Steel trade patterns;
  - (2) Conditions of the steel industries in the U.S. and Japan;
  - (3) Policies affecting the steel industries in the two countries; and
  - (4) Global steel issues.

